AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A method of generating a ~~knowledge neighborhood~~ map comprising:

determining a root concept;

~~selecting a set of~~ identifying knowledge profiles representing knowledge within an organization and having ~~which contain~~ the root concept in common;

~~determining a set of knowledge neighbors for the root concept, wherein each knowledge neighbor is a concept represented by one or more terms that are common among the knowledge profiles in the set of knowledge profiles;~~

analyzing the knowledge profiles to determine a knowledge neighbor, wherein the knowledge neighbor is a concept that at least a subset of the knowledge profiles have in common and that differs from the root concept;

deriving an affinity ~~for each knowledge neighbor in the set of knowledge neighbors~~ to represent a relationship between the root concept and the knowledge neighbor; and

using ~~each knowledge neighbor in the set of knowledge neighbors and each corresponding~~ the root concept, the knowledge neighbor and the affinity to create a map ~~representing the~~ to represent a knowledge neighborhood.

2.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

using ~~a~~ the knowledge neighbor ~~of the set of knowledge neighbors~~ as a new root concept to determine an additional knowledge neighbor.

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3.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~determining the set of knowledge neighbors~~ analyzing the knowledge profiles comprises:

filtering concepts common to the ~~selected set of~~ knowledge profiles against a pre-determined confidence level threshold.

4.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~selecting the set of~~ identifying knowledge profiles comprises:

filtering knowledge profiles which contain the root concept against a pre-determined confidence level threshold.

5.   (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

obtaining an identity for the root concept.

6.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining the identity for the root concept comprises:

receiving a user selection of the root concept.

7.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the root concept is selected from the group consisting of a knowledge term, a profile, a search criteria, and a document.

8.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~knowledge~~ map graphically illustrates the root ~~concepts~~ concept, the ~~set of knowledge neighbors~~ knowledge neighbor, and the ~~corresponding affinities~~ affinity.

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9.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

using the ~~knowledge~~ map to designate ~~a~~ the knowledge neighbor ~~of the set of knowledge~~

~~neighbors~~ as a new root concept to determine an additional knowledge neighbor.

10.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

overlaying the map on an earlier generated map.

11.   (previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the map graphically illustrates

more than one knowledge neighbor as a single knowledge neighbor.

12.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein creating the map comprises:

graphically illustrating ~~a~~ the knowledge neighbor ~~in the set of knowledge neighbors~~ if the

knowledge neighbor satisfies an affinity threshold.

13.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the map is a directed graph

comprising:

a node representing the root concept;

a node representing ~~a~~ the knowledge neighbor ~~in the set of knowledge neighbors~~; and

an edge representing the affinity for the knowledge neighbor, the edge graphically linking

the node representing the root concept and the node representing the knowledge neighbor.

14.   (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the edge is illustrated with a length

proportional to the affinity.

15.   (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the edge is illustrated with a color assigned to

the affinity.

16.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein deriving the affinity comprises:

counting knowledge profiles associated with the knowledge neighbor; and

calculating the affinity using the count.

17.   (original) The method of claim 16, wherein calculating the affinity comprises:

factoring in a confidence level for the knowledge neighbor in each of the counted

knowledge profiles.

18.   (canceled)

19.   (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable

instructions comprising:

determining a root concept;

selecting a set of identifying knowledge profiles which contain having the root concept in

common;

determining a plurality of knowledge neighbors for the root concept, wherein each of the

knowledge neighbors is a concept represented by one or more terms that are common among the

knowledge profiles in the set of knowledge profiles;

analyzing the knowledge profiles to determine a knowledge neighbor, wherein the knowledge neighbor is a concept that at least a subset of the knowledge profiles have in common and that differs from the root concept;

deriving an affinity ~~for each of the knowledge neighbors~~ to represent a relationship between the root concept and the knowledge neighbor; and

using the root concept, the knowledge ~~neighbors~~ neighbor and the ~~corresponding affinities~~ affinity to create a map representing a knowledge neighborhood.

20. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 19 having further instructions comprising:

using ~~a~~ the knowledge neighbor ~~in the plurality of knowledge neighbors~~ as a new root concept to determine an additional knowledge neighbor.

21. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 19 having further instructions comprising:

obtaining an identity for the root concept.

22. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 19 wherein the map graphically illustrates the root concept, the knowledge ~~neighbors~~ neighbor and the ~~affinities~~ affinity.

23. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 22 having further instructions comprising:

using the map to designate a-the knowledge neighbor ~~in the plurality of knowledge neighbors~~ as a new root concept to determine an additional knowledge neighbor.

24. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 22 having further instructions comprising:

overlaying the map on an earlier generated map.

25. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 22 having further instructions comprising:

graphically illustrating more than one knowledge neighbor as a single knowledge neighbor.

26. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a processing unit;

~~a memory coupled to the processing unit through a bus;~~

a computer-readable medium coupled to the processing unit through ~~the~~ a bus; ~~and~~

a knowledge neighborhood generation process executed from the computer-readable medium to cause the processing unit to determine a root concept, ~~select a set of~~ identify knowledge profiles ~~which contain~~ having the root concept in common, ~~determine a plurality of knowledge neighbors for the root concept, wherein each of the knowledge neighbors is a concept represented by one or more terms that are common among the knowledge profiles in the set of knowledge profiles~~ analyze the knowledge profiles to determine a knowledge neighbor, wherein the knowledge neighbor is a concept that at least a subset of the knowledge profiles have in

common and that differs from the root concept, and derive an affinity ~~for each of the knowledge~~

~~neighbors~~ to represent a relationship between the root concept and the knowledge neighbor; and

a knowledge mapping process executed from the computer-readable medium to cause the

processing unit to create a map using the ~~knowledge neighbors and the corresponding affinities~~

root concept, the knowledge neighbor and the affinity.

27.   (currently amended) The computer system of claim 26, wherein the knowledge

neighborhood generation process further causes the processing unit to use ~~a~~ the knowledge

neighbor ~~in the plurality of knowledge neighbors~~ as a new root concept to determine an

additional knowledge neighbor.

28.   (original) The computer system of claim 26, wherein the knowledge neighborhood

generation process further causes the processing unit to obtain an identity for the root concept.

29.   (currently amended) The computer system of claim 26 wherein the knowledge mapping

process further causes the processing unit to graphically illustrate the knowledge ~~neighbors~~

neighbor and the ~~affinities~~ affinity as a knowledge neighborhood for the root concept.

30.   (previously presented) The computer system of claim 29, wherein the knowledge

mapping process further causes the processing unit to graphically overlay the map on an earlier

generated map for the root concept.

31.   (previously presented) A method of generating a knowledge neighborhood comprising:

selecting a set of knowledge profiles associated with a root concept;

determining a knowledge neighbor for the root concept, the knowledge neighbor being a

concept common to the selected knowledge profiles; and

deriving an affinity for the knowledge neighbor to represent a relationship between the

root concept and the knowledge neighbor, wherein deriving the affinity comprises using the

formula

$$\sum_{P=1}^{N} L(R)_P * L(C)_P$$

to calculate the affinity, wherein N is a count of the knowledge profiles associated with the

knowledge neighbor, $L(R)_p$ is a confidence level for the root concept in a profile P, and $L(C)_p$ is

a confidence level of the knowledge neighbor in the profile P.